

DOCKET NO.: CRNT-0178
Application No.: 10/641,689
Office Action Dated: November 2, 2004

PATENT

Amendments to the Drawings:

Please add Figure 18 attached hereto.

Attachment: One (1) New Sheet

REMARKS

Entry of this response and reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified patent application are respectfully requested. Please note that a supplemental information disclosure statement (SIDS) has been filed concurrently with the present response.

The Examiner has indicated that the Serial Numbers as indicated by numerals 235-258 in the Information Disclosure Statement originally filed June 9, 2004, should be replaced by the publication numbers. Where available, these documents have been replaced by the publication numbers as cited in the enclosed Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement.

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner consider the enclosed references and return an initialed copy of the PTO Form 1449 to Applicants.

Claims 1-78 are currently pending in this application. By this amendment, claims 1, 9, 10, 19, 46, 47, 54, 57-68, 74 and 78 are amended. No claims have been added or canceled. No new matter is added. Applicant respectfully submits that, upon entry of the subject amendment, the application will be in condition for allowance. Applicant, thus, respectfully requests consideration of the above amendment and following remarks.

Claims 19, 46, 57-67 and 78 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that applicant regards as the invention. Also, claims 57-67 and 78 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being unpatentable due to the claimed subject matter.

Claims 1-9, 57 and 68 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Pub. Appl. 2003/0227373 to Lou *et al.* ("Lou"). Claims 1, 57 and 68 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,154,488 to Hunt ("Hunt"). Claims 10-56, 58-67 and 69-78 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lou.

Claims 19, 46, 57 and 78 have been amended to overcome their rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claim 47 has been amended to correct

the same error found in claim 46. Claims 57-67 and 78 have been amended to overcome their rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101. Claims 9, 10, 54, 62 and 74 have been amended to correct a clerical error. Independent claims 1, 57 and 68 have been amended to clarify that the transmitted information or received information is transmitted over the medium voltage power lines of the electrical power distribution network (EPDN). Finally, independent claims 1, 57 and 68 also have been amended to clarify that the network elements have a first port coupled to the medium voltage power line and a second port in communication with one or more user devices.

Applicant would like to thank Examiner Crosland for conducting an in-person interview with Applicant's representative. Applicant's representative and Examiner Crosland discussed the disclosure of the art relied upon in the office action in comparison with the claimed invention. The interview was helpful in facilitating and progressing the prosecution of the present application.

As requested by the Examiner in the interview, Figure 18 has been added to more clearly illustrate the claimed invention. The subject matter of Figure 18 is supported by the specification throughout such as, for example, at paragraphs 144, 160, 162 and elsewhere. No new matter has been added.

Briefly, the present invention forms a part of power line communications system that includes a plurality of network elements, which, for example, may take the form of transformer devices and other devices. The network elements include a first port coupled to the medium voltage power line and a second port in communication with one or more user devices disposed at the customer premises. In one embodiment, such as claim 68, the present invention includes a method comprising storing network element information in a memory wherein said network element information comprises an address and information identifying the network element; transmitting a request for data to a network element, at least in part, via a medium voltage power line; receiving a response from said request that is transmitted, at least in part, over a medium voltage power line; storing at least a portion of the response; and transmitting a command to a network element, at least in part, via a medium voltage power line.

Independent claims 1, 57 and 68 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Lou. Lou discloses a power line termination module 16 that communicates with a plurality of power line nodes 36. The power line nodes 36 may communicate with a plurality of power line gateways 74 via the power lines. However, the power line termination module, power line nodes, and power line gateways disclosed by Lou do not comprise "network elements" as recited by the claims, because they do not include a first port coupled to a medium power line and a second port in communication with one or more user devices disposed at one or more customer premises.

In addition, independent claims 1, 57 and 68 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hunt. Hunt discloses a low frequency power line communications system for communicating control and general information signals between a transmitter 108 and a receiver 114 at a utility station 102, and a receiver 112 and transmitter 116 at the customer device 104. Hunt fails to disclose a network element having a first port coupled to a medium voltage power line and a second port in communication with one or more user devices disposed at the customer premises.

Accordingly, applicant respectfully asserts that independent claims 1, 57 and 68 are patentable over the prior art and respectfully requests allowance thereof. In addition, because a claim that is dependent from a patentably distinct claim is also patentably distinct, applicant respectfully requests allowance of claims 2-56, which depend from claim 1, claims 58-67, which depend from claim 57, and claims 69-78, which depend from claim 68.


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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully submits that the claims are allowable and that the present application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application and an early Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested. In the event that the Examiner cannot allow the present application for any reason, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney, Vincent J. Roccia at (215) 564-8946, to discuss resolution of any remaining issues.

Date: January 28, 2005



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